

CLAIMS

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5 1. A composite data format including MPEG compatible video data and Internet image information suitable for conveying packetized video program data and associated web image information, comprising:

MPEG system data including

10 (a) a first transport packet with a header containing a first data identifier (PID) for identifying said video program data in a payload of said first transport packet;

(b) a second transport packet containing
a second data identifier (PID) for identifying said
Internet information, said Internet information being contained in a
15 payload of said second transport packet; and

ancillary data containing said second data identifier
and supporting identification and decoding of said Internet
information.

20 2. A data format according to claim 1, wherein
said ancillary data includes at least one of: (a) a web
image data start code; (b) a packet count; (c) packet length; (d) packet
linking data; (e) a web image data indication flag; (f) a timing
parameter for synchronizing web image information with a video or
25 audio program; (g) web image size and (h) error correction data.

3. A data format according to claim 2, wherein
at least one element of said ancillary data is contained in
said header of said second transport packet; and

5 at least one element of said ancillary data is contained in
said payload of said second transport packet.

4. A data format according to claim 1, wherein
said second data identifier is contained in a header of said
10 second transport packet.

5. A data format according to claim 1, wherein
said ancillary data is contained in said payload of said
second transport packet.

15 6. A data format according to claim 1, wherein
said MPEG system data includes program map information
for associating said Internet information and said video program.

20 7. A data format according to claim 6, wherein
said program map information associates said Internet
information, said first data identifier and said second data identifier.

25 8. A data format according to claim 1, wherein
said video program data is MPEG compatible compressed
video data and said Internet information is non-MPEG compatible
data.

9. A data format according to claim 8, wherein said Internet information comprises non-compressed video data.

5 10. A method for decoding a datastream containing packetized video program data and associated web image information, comprising the steps of:

10 identifying said video program data in a payload of a first transport packet using a first data identifier (PID) contained in a header of said first transport packet;

deriving a second data identifier (PID) from ancillary data supporting identification and decoding of Internet information in a second transport packet;

15 identifying said Internet information in a payload of said second transport packet using said second data identifier; and assembling said Internet information into an output datastream using said ancillary data.

20 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein in said assembling step

said Internet information is assembled into said output datastream using at least one of: (a) a web image data start code; (b) a packet count; (c) packet length; (d) packet linking data; (e) a web image data indication flag; (f) a timing parameter for synchronizing
25 web image information with a video or audio program; and (g) error correction data.

12. A method according to claim 10, including the steps of decoding said assembled Internet information using a first method to provide a first decoded output;

5 decoding said video program data using a second method to provide a second decoded output.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said first method decodes non-MPEG compatible Internet information, and

10 said second method decompresses MPEG compatible compressed video data.

14. A method according to claim 10, wherein in said deriving step

15 said second data identifier is derived from program map information associating said second data identifier with said Internet information.

20 15. A method according to claim 10, including the step of deriving said first data identifier from program map information associating said first data identifier with said video program data.

16. A method for decoding a datastream containing packetized video program data and associated web image information, comprising the steps of:

5 identifying said video program data in a payload of a first transport packet using a first data identifier contained in a header of said first transport packet;

10 deriving a second data identifier from ancillary data supporting identification and decoding of Internet information in a second transport packet;

identifying said Internet information in a payload of said second transport packet using said second data identifier; and

15 processing said Internet information using said ancillary data to form a composite image with said video program.

17. A method according to claim 16, further including the steps of

synchronizing said video program with said Internet information.

20 identifying audio program data, and

synchronizing said audio data with said Internet information.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein

25 said ancillary data includes at least one of: (a) a web image data start code; (b) a packet count; (c) packet length; (d) packet linking data; (e) a web image data indication flag; (f) a timing parameter for synchronizing web image information with a video or audio program; (g) web image size and (h) error correction data.

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19. A method for decoding a datastream containing broadcast packetized video program data and ancillary data provided by a video program broadcast source, comprising the steps of:

5 identifying data representing a broadcast video program in a packet payload of said datastream using a first data identifier;

examining said ancillary data in said datastream from said broadcast source for an indication of availability of web page information associated with said identified broadcast video program;

10 acquiring said web page information in response to said indication of availability; and

processing said Internet information using said ancillary data to form a composite image with said video program.

15 20. A method according to claim 19, including the step of commanding a video decoder to acquire and process said web page information from an Internet data source in response to said indication of availability received from said broadcast source.

20 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein in said acquiring step

said web page information is acquired from one of (a) an Internet server, and (b) a video program broadcast source.

25 22. A method according to claim 19, wherein said processing step processes at least one of: (a) a web image data start code; (b) a packet count; (c) packet length; (d) packet linking data; (e) a web image data indication flag; (f) a timing parameter for synchronizing web image information with a video or audio program; (g) web image
30 size and (h) error/correction data.

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